

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 L-03 COA-02 EB-11 OIC-04

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AEC-11

AGR-20 CG-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00

NSF-04 OMB-01 DRC-01 /197 W
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R 011629Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4419
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 5970

FROM US DEL LOS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: US-ECUADOREAN FISHERIES ISSUE

PARTICIPANTS: DR. LUIS VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ-
CHAIRMAN OF THE ECUADOREAN DELEGATION
DR. LUIS PONCE ENRIQUEZ - ECUADOREAN DELEGATE
DR. RAFAEL GARCIA VELASCO - ECUADOREAN DELEGATE
LIC. JOSE AYALA LASSO - ECUADOREAN DELEGATE
LIC. OSWALDO RAMIREZ - ECUADOREAN DELEGATE
AMBASSADOR JOHN R. STEVENSON - CHAIRMAN
OF US DELEGATION TO THE LOS CONFERENCE
AMBASSADOR DONALD MCKERNAN - ALTERNATE
US REPRESENTATIVE, US DELEGATION
MR. HOWARD POLLOCK - ALTERNATE US
REPRESENTATIVE, US DELEGATION

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MR. VIRGIL RANDOLPH - ADVISER

MR. JOHN FISHER - MINISTER-COUNSELOR, US EMBASSY,
CARACAS

DATE & PLACE: JUNE 26, 1974; RESIDENCE OF MR. JOHN FISHER

1. PRIOR TO LUNCHEON, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER GARCIA VELASCO STRESSED TO AMBASSADOR STEVENSON THAT ECUADOR WAS NOT INTERESTED IN A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE IN WHICH COASTAL STATES DID NOT HAVE SOVEREIGNTY AND IN WHICH THEY DID NOT HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER RESOURCES; OTHERWISE HE FELT THAT THE REGIME WITHIN 200 MILES WOULD BE MERELY AN EMPTY JURIDICAL CONCEPT.

2. IN CONVERSATION AT ONE END OF THE LUNCHEON TABLE WITH AMBASSADORS STEVENSON AND MCKERNAN, DRS. VALENCIA AND LIC. AYALA LASSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT IF A COASTAL STATE'S SOVEREIGNTY WITHIN A 200-MILE ZONE IS RECOGNIZED THE ECUADOREANS (A) ARE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH AND WORK THROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON THE CONSERVATION OF TUNA, (B) BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN AGREE TO A QUOTA PREFERENCE AGREED TO BY THE ORGANIZATION, AND (C) SEE NO OVERWHELMING OBSTACLE TO APPLYING ONLY AGREED PENALTIES TO VIOLATORS OF THE ORGANIZATION'S REGULATIONS, PROVIDING ECUADOR ENFORCED THE REGULATIONS. THEY THOUGHT THEY COULD ALSO ACCEPT AN INTERNATIONALLY AGREE-UPON ROYALTY, ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THEM. IN ESSENCE, THEY THOUGHT THEY COULD AGREE TO CONSIDERABLE LIMITATIONS TO ECUADOR'S AUTHORITY WITHIN THE "ZONE", PROVIDING IT WAS CLEAR THAT ECUADOR HAD "SOVEREIGNTY" WITHIN THE 200-MILE ZONE. IN TRYING TO CLARIFY THIS ISSUE, THEY MADE THE POINT THAT THEY WOULD AGREE NOT TO INTERFERE WITH NAVIGATION OF ANY KIND (OBVIOUSLY REFERRING TO MILITARY TRANSIT), AND THAT THEY COULD ACCEPT SOME DIFFERENT REGIME FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES WITHIN THE ZONE, PROVIDING THEIR "SOVEREIGNTY" OVER THE "ZONE" WAS CLEARLY ACCEPTED. AMBASSADORS STEVENSON AND MCKERNAN CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THE WORD "SOVEREIGNTY" AND ITS CONNOTATIONS GAVE THE US TROUBLE; THE ECUADOREANS STATED IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ALTER THEIR POSITION THAT ECUADOR RETAINS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ZONE. (LATER ON LIC. RAMIREZ SAID ECUADOR WANTED TO INVITE THOSE PRESENT TO LUNCH AND CONTINUE THE TALKS.) IT CLEARLY EMERGED FROM THE CONVERSATION THAT ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS THE US FACES IS TO MOVE THE ECUADOREANS FROM THEIR POSITION THAT THEY HAVE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THEIR 200-MILE ZONE OFF THEIR COAST (TERRITORIAL SEA).

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3. AT THE OTHER END OF THE TABLE, MR. POLLOCK EXPRESSED TO DRS. GARCIA AND PONCE THE BASIC US POSITION, STRESSING THAT THE US WANTS TO BE FLEXIBLE IN ITS APPROACH TO THE FISHERIES PROBLEM AND AVOID DISPUTES OVER SEMANTICS. THE US HOPES TO RESOLVE THE FISHERIES QUESTION WITH ECUADOR AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AT CARACAS--TO PUT OFF SOLUTIONS TO A LATER DATE MIGHT BE FATAL. MR. POLLOCK EMPHASIZED THAT HE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE US DELEGATION WANT TO CONSULT FREQUENTLY AND CLOSELY WITH THE ECUADO-

REANS IN THE HOPES OF REACHING A MEETING OF MINDS.

4. IN REPLY, DRS. GARCIA VELASCO AND PONCE MADE THE POINTS THAT ECUADOR HAS NO PROBLEMS WITH THE US OVER LOCAL AND COASTAL FISH, BUT DIFFERS WITH TUCKIOTWS TO THE REGULATION OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH. IT IS ECUADOR'S POSITION THAT WHILE SUCH FISH ARE IN ECUADOREAN TERRITORIAL WATERS THEY COME UNDER THE COMPLETE JURISDICTION OF ECUADOR, AND ECUADOR WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY INTERNATIONAL BODY REGULATING FISH IN ECUADOR'S TERRITORIAL SEAS. ECUADOR IS A SMALL COUNTRY WITH AN UNDEVELOPED FISHING INDUSTRY. WHY COULD NOT THE US GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGE US FISHING COMPANIES TO SET UP PLANTS IN ECUADOR EXPORT CATCH AND PROCESSED FISH TO THE US? WHY ARE US TARIFFS ON IMPORTED FISH PRODUCTS SO HIGH? WHY DID NOT THE US GOVERNMENT EXERCISE LEADERSHIP TO GUIDE THE US FISHING INDUSTRY TO HELP ECUADOR EXPAND ITS OWN FISHING INDUSTRY? (MR. POLLOCK ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS AS THEY AROSE.)

5. DRS. GARCIA VELASCO AND PONCE DID AGREE THAT THE FISHERIES QUESTION SHOULD BE SETTLE WITHOUT DELAY AND WELCOMED MR. POLLOCK'S INVITATION TO CONTINUE THIS FRANK AND FRIENDLY DIALOGUE NOW BEGUN.

STEVENSON

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